

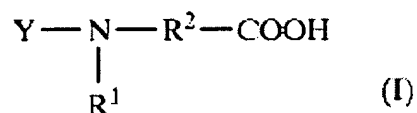
AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (canceled).

2. (currently amended): A planographic printing plate precursor comprising an intermediate layer containing a polymer having a structure represented by the following formula (I) and ~~at least one group selected from an onium group and an acidic group~~ at its side chain and an infrared laser photosensitive positive recording layer containing an infrared absorbing agent disposed on a support in this order:

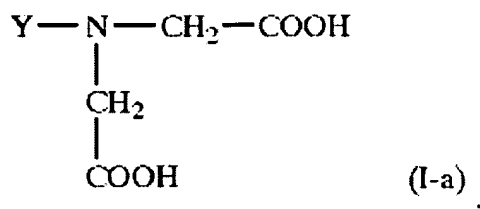


wherein Y represents a connecting group connected with a main chain of the polymer; R¹ is a hydrocarbon group substituted with a carboxylic acid group; and R² is a straight-chain hydrocarbon group or an hydrocarbon group substituted with a carboxylic acid group and

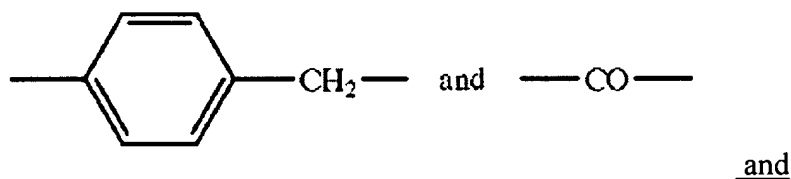
wherein the polymer included in the intermediate layer further comprises a structure derived from a monomer selected from substituted or non-substituted acrylates or methacrylates.

3. (previously presented): The planographic printing plate precursor according to claim 2, wherein in the formula (I), R^1 is an alkyl group substituted with a carboxylic acid group, and R^2 is a straight-chain alkylene group.

4. (currently amended): A planographic printing plate precursor comprising an intermediate layer containing a polymer having a structure represented by the following formula (I-a) and ~~at least one group selected from an onium group and an acidic group~~ at its side chain and an infrared laser photosensitive positive recording layer containing an infrared absorbing agent disposed on a support in this order:

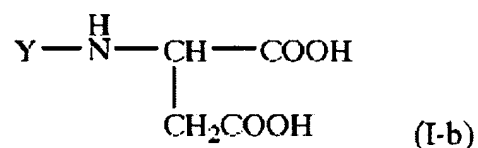


wherein Y represents a connecting group selected from the following structures

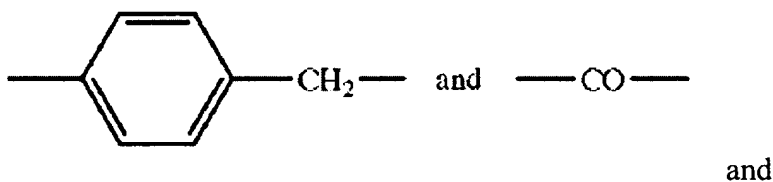


wherein the polymer included in the intermediate layer further comprises a structure derived from a monomer selected from substituted or non-substituted acrylates or methacrylates.

5. (currently amended): A planographic printing plate precursor comprising an intermediate layer containing a polymer having a structure represented by the following formula (I-b) and ~~at least one group selected from an onium group and an acidic group~~ at its side chain and an infrared laser photosensitive positive recording layer containing an infrared absorbing agent disposed on a support in this order:



wherein Y represents a connecting group selected from the following structures



wherein the polymer included in the intermediate layer further comprises a structure derived from a monomer selected from substituted or non-substituted acrylates or methacrylates.

6. (previously presented): The planographic printing plate precursor according to claim 2, wherein a content of the structure represented by the formula (I) in the polymer is 5% by mole or more.

7. (previously presented): The planographic printing plate precursor according to claim 2, wherein the polymer is a polymer obtained by copolymerizing a monomer having the structure represented by the formula (I) with another monomer.

8. (previously presented): The planographic printing plate precursor according to claim 7, wherein the another monomer is a monomer having an onium group.

9. (previously presented): The planographic printing plate precursor according to claim 7, wherein the another monomer is a monomer having an acidic group.

10. (previously presented): The planographic printing plate precursor according to claim 7, wherein the another monomer is a monomer having a functional group that is capable of interaction with the recording layer.

11. (previously presented): The planographic printing plate precursor according to claim 2, wherein a content of the polymer in the intermediate layer is 50 to 100% by mass based on a total solid content constituting the intermediate layer.

12. (previously presented): The planographic printing plate precursor according to claim 2, wherein a weight average molecular weight of the polymer is 500 to 1,000,000.

13. (previously presented): The planographic printing plate precursor according to claim 2, wherein a coating amount of the intermediate layer after drying is 1 to 100 mg/m².

14. (previously presented): The planographic printing plate precursor according to claim 2, wherein the recording layer contains an alkali-soluble resin.

15. (previously presented): The planographic printing plate precursor according to claim 14, wherein the alkali-soluble resin has an acidic group selected from the group consisting of a phenolic hydroxyl group, a sulfonamide group, a substituted sulfonamide acidic group, a carboxylic acid group, a sulfonic acid group and a phosphoric acid group.

16. (canceled).

17. (canceled).

18. (previously presented): The planographic printing plate precursor according to claim 2, wherein the recording layer has a multilayer structure.

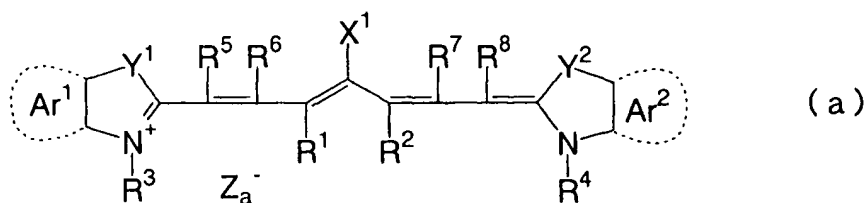
19. (previously presented): The planographic printing plate precursor according to claim 2, wherein the support is a support that has undergone hydrophilicizing treatment using an alkali metal silicate.

20. (previously presented): The planographic printing plate precursor according to claim 2, wherein the absorbing agent is a cyanine dye.

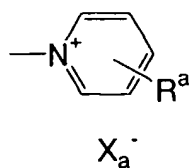
21. (previously presented): The planographic printing plate precursor according to claim 4, wherein the absorbing agent is a cyanine dye.

22. (previously presented): The planographic printing plate precursor according to claim 5, wherein the absorbing agent is a cyanine dye.

23. (previously presented): The planographic printing plate precursor according to claim 2, wherein the infrared absorbing agent is represented by formula (a)

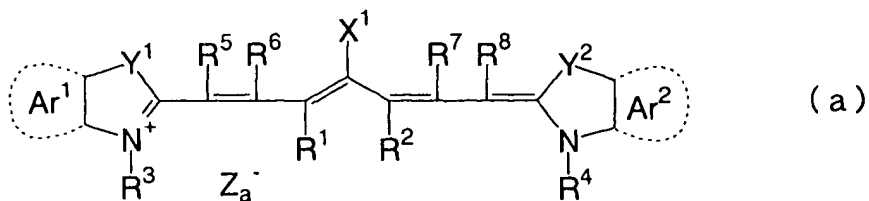


wherein X^1 represents a hydrogen atom, a halogen atom, $-NPh_2$, X^2-L^1 or a group shown below

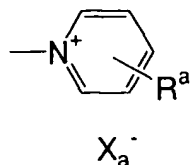


X^2 represents an oxygen atom or a sulfur atom and L^1 represents a hydrocarbon group having 1 to 12 carbon atoms, an aromatic ring having a heteroatom or a hydrocarbon group having 1 to 12 carbon atoms and containing a heteroatom, X_a^- is a counter anion, R^a represents a substituent selected from a hydrogen atom, an alkyl group, an aryl group, a substituted or unsubstituted amino group and a halogen atom, R^1 and R^2 each independently represent a hydrocarbon group having 1 to 12 carbon atoms, Ar^1 and Ar^2 , which may be the same or different, each represent an aromatic hydrocarbon group which may have a substituent, Y^1 and Y^2 , which may be the same or different, each represent a sulfur atom or a dialkylmethylene group having 12 or less carbon atoms, R^3 and R^4 , which may be the same or different, each represent a hydrocarbon group, which may have a substituent and has 20 or less carbon atoms, R^5 , R^6 , R^7 and R^8 , which may be the same or different, each independently represent a hydrogen atom or a hydrocarbon group having 12 or less carbon atoms, and Za^- represents a counter anion.

24. (previously presented): The planographic printing plate precursor according to claim 4, wherein the infrared absorbing agent is represented by formula (a)

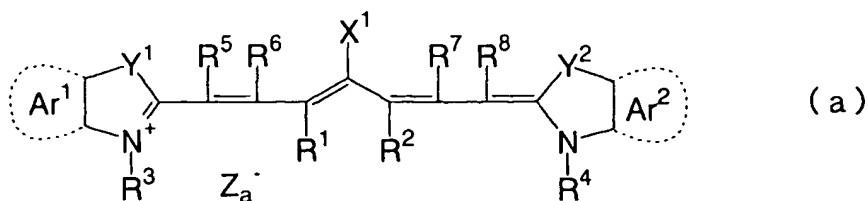


wherein X^1 represents a hydrogen atom, a halogen atom, $-NPh_2$, X^2-L^1 or a group shown below

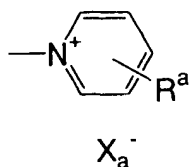


X² represents an oxygen atom or a sulfur atom and L¹ represents a hydrocarbon group having 1 to 12 carbon atoms, an aromatic ring having a heteroatom or a hydrocarbon group having 1 to 12 carbon atoms and containing a heteroatom, X_a⁻ is a counter anion, R^a represents a substituent selected from a hydrogen atom, an alkyl group, an aryl group, a substituted or unsubstituted amino group and a halogen atom, R¹ and R² each independently represent a hydrocarbon group having 1 to 12 carbon atoms, Ar¹ and Ar², which may be the same or different, each represent an aromatic hydrocarbon group which may have a substituent, Y¹ and Y², which may be the same or different, each represent a sulfur atom or a dialkylmethylene group having 12 or less carbon atoms, R³ and R⁴, which may be the same or different, each represent a hydrocarbon group, which may have a substituent and has 20 or less carbon atoms, R⁵, R⁶, R⁷ and R⁸, which may be the same or different, each independently represent a hydrogen atom or a hydrocarbon group having 12 or less carbon atoms, and Z_a⁻ represents a counter anion.

25. (currently amended): The planographic printing plate precursor according to claim 5, wherein the infrared absorbing agent is represented by formula (a)



wherein X^1 represents a hydrogen atom, a halogen atom, $-NPh_2$, X^2-L^1 or a group shown below



X^2 represents an oxygen atom or a sulfur atom and L^1 represents a hydrocarbon group having 1 to 12 carbon atoms, an aromatic ring having a heteroatom or a hydrocarbon group having 1 to 12 carbon atoms and containing a heteroatom, X_a^- is a counter anion, R^a represents a substituent selected from a hydrogen atom, an alkyl group, an aryl group, a substituted or unsubstituted amino group and a halogen atom, R^1 and R^2 each independently represent a hydrocarbon group having 1 to 12 carbon atoms, Ar^1 and Ar^2 , which may be the same or different, each represent an aromatic hydrocarbon group which may have a substituent, Y^1 and Y^2 , which may be the same or different, each represent a sulfur atom or a dialkylmethylene group having 12 or less carbon atoms, R^3 and R^4 , which may be the same or different, each represent a hydrocarbon group, which may have a substituent and has 20 or less carbon atoms, R^5 , R^6 , R^7 and R^8 , which may be the same or different, each independently represent a hydrogen atom or a hydrocarbon group having 12 or less carbon atoms, and Za^- represents a counter anion.

26. (canceled).

27. (canceled).

28. (canceled).

29. (currently amended): The planographic printing plate precursor according to claim 262, wherein the monomer is selected from the group consisting of methylacrylate, ethylacrylate, propylacrylate, butylacrylate, amylacrylate, hexylacrylate, cyclohexylacrylate, octylacrylate, phenylacrylate, benzylacrylate, 2-chloroethylacrylate, 4-hydroxybutylacrylate, glycidylacrylate, N-dimethylaminoethylacrylate, methylmethacrylate, ethylmethacrylate, propylmethacrylate, butylmethacrylate, amylmethacrylate, hexylmethacrylate, cyclohexylmethacrylate, octylmethacrylate, phenylmethacrylate, benzylmethacrylate, 2-chloroethylmethacrylate, 4-hydroxybutylmethacrylate, glycidylmethacrylate and N-dimethylaminoethylmethacrylate.

30. (currently amended): The planographic printing plate precursor according to claim 274, wherein the monomer is selected from the group consisting of methylacrylate, ethylacrylate, propylacrylate, butylacrylate, amylacrylate, hexylacrylate, cyclohexylacrylate, octylacrylate, phenylacrylate, benzylacrylate, 2-chloroethylacrylate, 4-hydroxybutylacrylate, glycidylacrylate, N-dimethylaminoethylacrylate, methylmethacrylate, ethylmethacrylate, propylmethacrylate, butylmethacrylate, amylmethacrylate, hexylmethacrylate, cyclohexylmethacrylate, octylmethacrylate, phenylmethacrylate, benzylmethacrylate, 2-

chloroethylmethacrylate, 4-hydroxybutylmethacrylate, glycidylmethacrylate and N-dimethylaminoethylmethacrylate.

31. (currently amended): The planographic printing plate precursor according to claim 285, wherein the monomer is selected from the group consisting of methylacrylate, ethylacrylate, propylacrylate, butylacrylate, amylacrylate, hexylacrylate, cyclohexylacrylate, octylacrylate, phenylacrylate, benzylacrylate, 2-chloroethylacrylate, 4-hydroxybutylacrylate, glycidylacrylate, N-dimethylaminoethylacrylate, methylmethacrylate, ethylmethacrylate, propylmethacrylate, butylmethacrylate, amylmethacrylate, hexylmethacrylate, cyclohexylmethacrylate, octylmethacrylate, phenylmethacrylate, benzylmethacrylate, 2-chloroethylmethacrylate, 4-hydroxybutylmethacrylate, glycidylmethacrylate and N-dimethylaminoethylmethacrylate.